

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 214413
ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:EESEVENDSEN

APPROVED BY IO:TBROWN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214413

FOLLOWING REPEAT SOFIA 1733 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 22.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1733

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RO

SUBJECT: UN CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO

REFS: STATE 188247, STATE 203994

1. EMBOFF PRESENTED DIRECTOR OF UN AND DISARMAMENT
SECTION OF MFA, STEFAN TODOROV, WITH COPY OF THE PRESIDENT'S
PROCLAMATION AND MADE DEMARCHE AUG 21.

2. TODOROV RESPONDED THAT BULGARIA'S POSITION, BASED ON
THE PRINCIPLE OF ANTI-COLONIALISM, WAS WELL-KNOWN AND
WOULD NOT CHANGE. THE BULGARIAN OFFICIAL FOUND DISCUSSION
OF THE PUERTO RICO ISSUE IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 APPROPRIATE
ANB NOTED THE GOB'S SUPPORT FOR LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION.
HE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON ANY RESOLUTION THAT MIGHT BE
PRESENTED THIS YEAR UNTIL HE HAD SEEN THE TEXT. HOWEVER,
HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WHAT DIFFERENCE IN VIEWS OUR
TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT HAVE AT THIS YEAR'S COMMITTEE SESSIONS
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PAGE 02 STATE 214413

WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH OUR IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. TODOROV DESCRIBED THE CALL FOR REFERENDUM AFTER THE
1980 ELECTIONS A NEW FACTOR FOR HIM AND ASKED IF UN
OBSERVERS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO VIEW THE ELECTIONS AND THE
STEPS LEADING UP TO THEM. HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED SUCH A
REFERENDUM OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RESOLVING THE ISSUE.

ASKED BULGARIA'S POSITION ON THE LAST SUCH REFERENDUM, HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT CONSIDERED A FREE EXPRESSION OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S VIEWS. WHEN PRESSED, HE REFERRED TO BULGARIA'S VIEW AS BEING QUOTE SHARED UNQUOTE (PRESUMABLY WITH OTHERS VOTING FOR PUERTO RICO RESOLUTIONS.

ASKED IF THE GOB WOULD ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM IF IT WAS SATISFIED THAT THE ISLANDERS HAD EXPRESSED THEMSELVES FREELY, HE ANSWERED THAT THE GOB WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE MATTER THEN, BUT THAT IN PRINCIPLE, BULGARIA STOOD FOR SELF-DETERMINATION WHETHER ACCOMPLISHED VIA ELECTIONS, A REFERENDUM, OR OTHER MEANS. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION AND, IF A REFERENDUM IS HELD, HIS URGING THE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT WHATEVER DECISION THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO REACH, EMBOFF WAS ASKED WHAT THE MOOD OF CONGRESS WAS VIZ-A-VIZ A PUERTO RICAN CHOICE FOR INDEPENDENCE, COMMONWEALTH, OR STATEHOOD.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: FOR CONTINUING DISCUSSION OF TOPIC, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS ON UN OBSERVERS AND THE QUOTE MOOD OF CONGRESS UNQUOTE AS BEST AS CAN BE DETERMINED NOW. GARTHOFF UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, UNGA RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE214413
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EESEVENDSEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780345-0519
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780831/aaaaazzw.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dcb7305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 188247, 78 STATE 203994
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1644365
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, BU, US, RQ, UNGA
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dcb7305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014